CO-OPERATION.

19. During the current year the Co-operative movement showed all round progress. The number of Societies has increased to 3121 with a membership of 4,36,000. These Societies have a total paid up share capital of Rs. 92.21 lakhs with a reserve fund of Rs. 29.03 lakhs. The working capital rose to Rs. 353.78 lakhs. With a view to stabilise the agricultural credit structure, 15 Village Banks have been organised in important centres and the services of one paid secretary at Government expense were given to each of these Banks. Sixteen Marketing Societies, 19 Farming Societies and 10 Multipurpose Societies were also organised during the year.

A State Warehousing Corporation suggested in the Rural Credit Survey Report is proposed to be constituted. The main functions of this Corporation include the acquiring and building of godowns at important market centres, and the running of licensed warehouses to do distribution work. The State and the Central Government will participate in the share capital of the Corporation to the extent of Rs. 10 lakhs each. It is also proposed to create a Co-operative Development Fund with a corpus of Rs. 10 lakhs. The fund will be utilised for making long term loans to the State Government to enable them to subscribe to the share capital of Co-operative Societies. The State will contribute Rs. 1 lakh to the fund in 1956-57 and an equal amount will be received from the National Co-operative Development Fund. A Relief and Guarantee Fund will also be constituted as recommended in the Rural Credit Survey Report, to give grants by way of relief to Co-operative Credit Institutions for the purpose of writing off irrecoverable arrears which have arisen from causes beyond the control of these institutions. The State Government will contribute Rs. 0.5 lakhs to this Fund in the ensuing year.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS AND NATIONAL EXTENSION SERVICE.

20. The Community Projects and National Extension Service Blocks have been carrying on a programme of intensive development of the villages. They can already lay claim to a large amount of success in combining the natural advantages of the rural areas with modern amenities and in making life in these areas fuller and happier.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Shri A. J. John]

The term of the Neyyattinkara—Vilavancode and Chalakudy-Kunnathunad Community Development Projects and the Kuttanad Development Block will end on 1st October 1956. Thereafter they will be continued as Intensive Development Blocks. The Neyyattinkara—Vilavancode Project will be reckoned as four Intensive Development Blocks and the Chalakudy-Kunnathunad Project as five Intensive Development Blocks. Besides these we have at present three Intensive Development Blocks at Agasteeswaram, Moovattupuzha and Koipuram and eleven National Extension Service Blocks at Mavelikara, Trivandrum (rural) Uzhavur, Pulikeezhu, Chittur, Kottarakara, Nemmara, Changanacherry, Aryad, Ranni and Kazhakuttam. During the Second Five Year Plan period, 76 new N. E. S. Blocks will be started, bringing the total number to 100 which will cover the entire area of the State. Provision has been made in the next year's budget for starting 10 new N. E. S. Blocks and for converting 3 of the existing N. E. S. Blocks into Intensive Development Blocks.

LOCAL SELF GOVERNMENT

21. The current year witnessed the consolidation of the activities of the different wings of Local Self Government by the formation of the Local Bodies Department. During the current year the Municipalities continued to be encouraged by the payment of grants and loans. A provision of Rs. 4.55 lakhs has been made in the next year's budget for the payment of loans to the Municipalities and another sum of Rs. 13.95 lakhs for grants. Besides these a provision of Rs. 64.00 lakhs has been made for the urban water supply schemes. The cost of these schemes will be initially met by the Government and will ultimately be borne by the Municipalities concerned. Government will aid them by giving half the cost as grant and the other half as loan.

The Panchayat Department had a very busy programme in the current year. The Local Development works are being executed through the Panchayat Department. There is a provision of Rs. 30.80 lakhs in the current year's budget for Local Development works. This scheme evoked considerable local enthusiasm and the people have come forward in large numbers with offers of free gift of land, money and labour. The main items of works under this programme undertaken during the current year include 25 hospital buildings at a cost of Rs. 6.8

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly